

AH Committee

From: Nalani Silva <nalani.silva@fourseasons.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:03 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms; Lahaina) AH-1(3) Sub(3)
Attachments: Scan_0066.pdf

Aloha Chair Kama,

Attached you will find a copy of my support letter for the Affordable Housing Project - Makila Farms. The original will be mailed out to your attention today.

Mahalo,

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August 29, 2019

Chair Tasha Kama – Housing Committee
Maui County Council
Kalana O Maui Building, Eight Floor
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

Re: Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawai'i Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms; Lahaina) AH-1(3) Sub(3)

Dear Chair Kama:

I am writing today in support of the Makila Farms project, which will provide affordable workforce housing for the residents in our community who choose to stay in Maui County to work, live and raise their families.

Please accept my testimony as a former Maui resident, currently living in Lāna'i City, Maui County and one of many parents of children moving to Maui. My daughter is 22 years old and have lived in Maui for about one and a half years since leaving home following high school. Since her initial transfer to Maui, she has moved twice seeking affordable options commensurate with her pay as rent is approximately \$1800 - \$2000 a month for a studio or one-bedroom apartment in the West Maui area. It is vital for projects like this to move forward so our residents, particularly our young adults just starting out on their own careers to have the opportunity to pursue their lives in Maui County. It is difficult as a parent and resident to think your children don't have the opportunity to choose to live in their cherished islands, due to lack of affordable housing.

This project would offer smaller homes with larger land size in the affordable range that my daughter can afford. She was raised to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables grown on family farms on Lāna'i, Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i. This would give her the opportunity to continue the tradition of living sustainably and respecting our land by being able to grow her own fruits and vegetables, which can also be costly in Hawaii.

Brown Development has built a number of exceptional homes on Lāna'i, where I work and have been a resident for over 20 years. The Brown Development owners were very generous by financially offering the community the opportunity to utilize his personal farm for a 4H program while he lived on Lāna'i, demonstrating a connection to the community and desire to be a real neighbor, not solely a developer.

I certainly appreciate the need to take into consideration the viewpoints of the various stakeholders - from county officials, community members, neighborhood homeowner's associations, local business and immediate neighbors and know that we all are working towards making Maui County, our home, the best it can be. I feel the developer seems to have addressed and solved the issues of water, fire, egress, septic and affordability. They support agriculture development and workforce homes, both which need to be promoted more actively to our Hawai'i residents to make this and projects like it a success.

Once again, please accept this written letter of support for the Makila Farms.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Nalani Silva